

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PUBLIC OVERSIGHT HEARING

Testimony of William O. Howland, Jr.
Director
District Of Columbia
Department of Public Works (DPW)

Anthony A. Williams
Mayor
Committee of the Whole
Linda Cropp, Chairperson

Thursday, January 26, 2006
10:00 a.m.
Council Chambers, Room 500
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC

Good Morning, Chairperson Cropp, Councilmembers, and staff. I am William O. Howland, Jr., Director of the Department of Public Works (DPW) and I am pleased to present testimony regarding DPW's Capital Improvements. In fiscal year 2005, DPW continues to upgrade most of its facilities that are in disrepair and have relocated other facilities as necessary.

As you are aware, DPW is a citywide department with complexes, buildings, and work sites throughout each ward of the city. Most of the buildings that comprise the network of DPW facilities are over fifty years old. Our primary goal is to consolidate most of our operations into a DPW Operation Center. This task will be accomplished by renovating the Fleet Management campus at West Virginia Avenue, NE to become the Department of Public Works' operations center housing over 1,000 employees and 550 pieces of equipment. The project would consolidate DPW's satellite operations that are threatened by economic development into a central operations campus on District-owned land.

Although some of the capital projects have been placed on hold, DPW

has been successful with several on-going capital projects in fiscal year 2005.

- Recycling and Trash Collection Operations Center, which will serve as the central headquarters for DPW's recycling and trash collection crews is under construction. This operation will include parking for more than 80 packer trucks and housed over 280 field personnel. We currently have 1 million in FY 2006 for design and site preparation. Funding for this project is on hold until 2007.
- The Welding Shop, which is a key facility for Fleet Services is currently under the construction management of the Office of Property Management (OPM) Capital Construction Services Administration. All major building mechanical systems are under renovation and near completion with a termination date of March 15, 2006.
- Fort Totten Transfer Station is ready for renovation, the design phase is complete. Addition funding has been requested in FY 2006 and onward.

- Benning Road Transfer Station is substantially completed. Staff is currently working through the punch list to finalize completion of the project. Funding has been identified this year to renovate the office space and locker room facilities.
- Sweeper Operations Center project is renovating a District-owned structure using “green building” features to provide storage and operation space for the mechanical street sweeping operation. This garage will replace existing facility located at 900 New Jersey Avenue, SE, which is slated to be demolished as part of the Hope IV Waterfront redevelopment. The center is currently under design, and will house 168 employees, 60 sweepers, 6 front-end loaders, and 22 other pieces of heavy equipment.

Since my tenure at DPW, we have relocated our Impound Lot from 4770 Addison Road, Beaver Heights, Maryland to 5001 Shepherd Parkway, SW, which merged the Abandoned Vehicles Division and the Impoundment Division to one location at our Blue Plains facility.

Other major facility improvements in FY 2005 are as follows:

- Replacing the leaky roof and waterproofing the entire building at 1725 15th Street, NE. This building houses our Parking and Fleet Administration.
- Installed new air conditioning system at our Solid Waste facility at 2750 South Capital Street, SW
- Installed Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Fuel Dispensers at 1241 W Street, NE
- Installed a new Butler Building at our Solid Waste facility at 2700 South Capital Street to replace the old and dilapidated trailers
- Installed a new petroleum fuel site at 500 Water Street for Metropolitan Police and Fire Departments to fuel their water crafts

Again, I must stress the importance of our agency's plan to integrate most of DPW's major components into one main facility in the District. The site at West Virginia Avenue will allow increased productivity through consolidation and cooperative management of the various

integral DPW components. The site is also designed to reduce the cost of previously planned facilities by eliminating the need for additional land acquisition. Additional savings will be realized by utilizing existing security, management, employee parking, utilities, and maintenance. By consolidating most of DPW's facilities at one location, the department will realize increased productivity and increased stability.

In my capacity as Director, I will continue to ensure that all of DPW's facilities are in maximum operations and our employees work in a safe and clean environment. We clearly understand that in order for DPW to realize benefits in its operations, it must adhere to a well-established schedule of routine preventive maintenance and repairs to its facilities. DPW continues to demonstrate balance between management's concern for its employees and efficient operational activities. Although we have accomplished a lot of improvements, there is still much more work to be done.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to speak on this

important subject. I will be more than happy to answer any questions you or your colleagues may have at this time.